

wishes, but to effect a compromise of conflicting opinions. It had been intimated that ten members were allowed to Baltimore, for the purpose of securing a majority of Democrats in the House of Delegates. But that number would not produce such a result. There would always be a majority of Whigs in both houses, unless in the event of some great change in the politics of the State. There might, on extraordinary occasions, be an accidental majority of Democrats; but, as he had already said, permanent ascendancy would be with the Whig party, and he had never sought to avoid this result by a constitutional provision. He had insisted upon giving to Somerset four members, and had been willing to allow to Charles and Montgomery one more than their fractions entitled them to, though these were all Whig counties. He did not think it necessary to disclaim party purposes; his object, in presenting his proposition, was to settle the question and terminate the discussion, which had occupied so much of the time of the Convention.

Mr. JENIFER inquired when it was that the gentleman had proposed to give Montgomery and Charles each an additional vote.

Mr. GRASON stated that the gentleman from Charles (Mr. Jenifer) had called upon him, and in a list, then presented to his notice, Charles county had 3 Delegates, Montgomery 3, and Somerset 4. He had become convinced that the 3 Delegates would not be carried, the gentleman from Charles had himself declared that he would not vote for a plan that would give Charles county more than St. Mary's.

Mr. JENIFER said that he recollected the time referred to. Upon examining the proposition he had become satisfied that a majority would be given by it to the anti-slaveholding counties; and if the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Howard) had not called the previous question, he should have stated the fact and shown that it was correct. If the gentleman would make a motion to reconsider, the plan might be so varied as to give general satisfaction. Mr. J. said as he considered the interest of the small counties the same, they being all agricultural, he desired to see them fairly represented in the Legislature, and he would not consent to abandon any of them for the purpose of giving one Delegate for Charles. He admitted that the gentleman had purposed to give Charles one additional Delegate, but that could not induce him (Mr. J.) to vote for the substitute. He would not make a bargain for his own county constituents, while others were in the same category.

Mr. J. said he was sure that such was not intended by his friend from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Grason,) but certain it was that because he (Mr. J.) would not vote for the proposition with the one additional Delegate offered to Charles, three was stricken out and two inserted, as it now stands. But Mr. J. said if the gentleman would move to reconsider, and add one additional Delegate to the counties he had proposed, he (Mr. J.) would vote for the gentleman's proposition.

Mr. GRASON would prefer not to make that motion.

Mr. HOWARD. Before I proceed to express some of the thoughts which have occurred to me in the course of the last hour, I will dispose of the amendment immediately under consideration, that offered by the gentleman from Frederick, by saying that I concur with him in that proposition; and if there be apparently different interests in the State, which I doubt very much, I am willing so far to recognize that apparent diversity as to divide the State into four districts, as he proposes, and thus provide successfully for the representation of each of these different local interests. In the course of our deliberations here, we have found what no one could have predicted, that our main difficulties have occurred from the existence of sectional feelings, and supposed local interests. We have found sectional questions before us at every turn. We have had it represented that Baltimore city was going to swallow up all the smaller counties. Then it was said that the large and populous counties in the Northern and Northwestern part of the State, were leagued in battle array against the smaller counties. Then it was said that the non-slaveholding counties, a class which I cannot recognize, because the county which I have the honor in part to represent, and which is classed under that general designation, has a number of slaves within its borders nearly equal to that in several of the counties, and more than that, in one of these counties classed as slaveholding, that the non-slaveholding were leagued against the slaveholding counties. In addition to these unfortunate divisions thrust in upon us, we have now a jealousy between shore and shore, and the two sections arrayed in a formidable manner against each other. With regard to other distinctions, they have passed away; they have been settled by the votes of this Convention. They never did really exist, and they never ought to have influenced the deliberations of this body. And yet, sir, appeals were made in a very impassioned manner to our sense of justice. The gentleman from St. Mary's, in the course of his remarks, said that the people of his county were about to be injured. I found no fault with him for the expression of that opinion. It was one of the effects of his local feelings, and he had a perfect right to express it here; but there was no corresponding feeling any where upon the other side; I am perfectly sure there was none in my mind. I had no desire to injure the people of that ancient and venerable county. Although I never had the pleasure of visiting that county, or Charles, or Calvert, I look to the people of these counties with the same feelings that foreigners who have come over to the United States look back upon their father land. I have the same respect for their history and character and feelings and interests, that one of their own inhabitants possesses. There is something there which appeals to my pride as a citizen of Maryland; and there is a common interest between myself and those people that cannot be forgotten or trifled with.